FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MAY 1984

Lebanon

Cabinet Meeting — President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired the first Cabinet session at the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya on 10 May, Beirut radio announced. Interior Minister 'Abdallah ar-Rasi was not present. Speaking to newsmen after the morning session, Prime Minister Rashid Karami indicated that there were no problems and that discussions were "very positive," the radio reported. In a statement broadcast by the radio following the afternoon session, Karami reported that the Cabinet dealt with all aspects of the Lebanese crisis and indicated that a number of decisions had been made, including the appointment of Joseph Skaff as acting minister of information, approving the "jurisdiction" of Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon affairs and reconstruction, and the formation of a committee to prepare the government statement.

Military/Security Situation — Israeli gunboats opened fire in the direction of Ad-Damur, Al-Mushrif, and Radio Orient, Beirut radio reported. In a separate development, Ihdin radio claimed that Israeli forces in western Al-Biqa' were observed digging trenches and bringing in "iron bridges."

Libya

Reaction to Tripoli Attack — "Angry" demonstrations were held in most Libyan cities calling for the execution of the "terrorists" "trained in Britain, America, and Sudan" who were involved in the attack on Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's residence in Tripoli and calling for pursuit and "elimination" of those responsible "wherever they exist," Tripoli radio announced. The demonstrators also called for the overthrow of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's regime and expressed readiness to carry out the "death order" against it.

Demonstrators in Banghazi proclaimed the death sentence for all "terrorist traitors" as well as those who cooperate with them, and stated that the "sons of the Libyan Arab People" would be turned into "suicide squads" to "liquidate" the enemies of the revolution anywhere they went in the world, according to a further Tripoli report. The demonstrators warned "reactionary Arab regimes" which harbor the "stray dogs" that they will not "escape punishment." They stated that the United States and Britain were guilty of protecting the perpetrators and pledged to destroy the two countries' interests in the Arab homeland and to support liberation movements that oppose them.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison cited "confessions and evidence" proving that Tunisian territory had been used for anti-Libyan "terrorist activity" and warned of the "grave danger" to which relations might be exposed, according to a statement issued by the Bureau and carried by JANA.

In a related report, a "responsible source" in the Sudanese Foreign Ministry denied Libyan claims of involvement in the recent attack, characterizing them as an attempt to divert attention from the rising domestic opposition to the Libyan regime, SUNA disclosed. A spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya denied receiving training in Sudan or Britain, claiming that the front was based in Libya, according to Omdurman radio. He also threatened more attacks on Al-Qadhdhafi.

Velayati Visit — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Tripoli bearing a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to Al-Qadhdhafi, Tehran radio announced. He was greeted by Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki. In a statement following his arrival, Velayati indicated that the purpose of his visit was to stress Iran's "absolute support" for Libya in its fight against the "hostile plots" of "imperialism and Zionism," Tripoli radio reported.

Syria

Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu arrived in Damascus for a "cordial" visit, Damascus radio announced. Ceausescu held talks on bilateral relations with President al-Asad and Syrian officials at the guest palace, Damascus television reported.

Iran-Iraq War

"Chemical Gas" Attack — Iraq used "chemical gas" in the Majnun region on 8 May, according to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

Khark "Siege" — Iraq's "siege" of Khark Island has proved "highly effective," INA asserted. An "oil source" close to OPEC cited by the agency claimed that shipping firms were reluctant to send their tankers to the region and that Iranian oil exports had declined in a "tangible way" as a result.

PLO Affairs

Fatah Delegation to USSR — A Fatah Central Committee delegation will visit the Soviet Union on 16 May, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated in remarks reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio.

Fatah-Syrian Reconciliation — A joint Algerian-PDRY delegation will begin contacts with the Syrian leadership and the Fatah Central Committee in "the next few days" to resolve differences between the two sides, KUNA disclosed, citing a spokesman for the PFLP-DFLP Joint Command.

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More on 'Arafat Stopover Visit in Dhaka

BK100959 Dhaka BSS in English 0910 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Dhaka, May 10, BSS — Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat left here this morning after a day's visit to the city on his way back from a tour of China and North Korea.

Briefly talking to newsmen at the airport at the end of nearly a 20-hour visit, Mr 'Arafat said the PLO was "insisting" on a meeting under the United Nations "flag" on the Palestinian problem. Answering a question, the PLO leader said the superpowers and members of the Security Council were expected to participate in the proposed conference.

The PLO leader said China reiterated its support to the just cause of the Palestinians. China, he said, also supported the move for an international conference under the auspices of the UN. Asked if the PLO is going to shift its headquarters from Tunis to Cairo, the Palestinian leader denied the reports, saying that "it's wrong". The political headquarters would remain in Tunis while that of military in San'a' in North Yemen.

Before leaving Mr 'Arafat also participated in the tripartite summit with President Ershad and visiting UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The PLO chief stopped here for few hours on May 5 while going to Beijing and Pyongyang.

Ershad, Shaykh Zayid, 'Arafat Meet

GF101055 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received at 0830 UAE time today Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, who stopped in the Bangladesh capital on his way from China and Korea to Kuwait. A tripartite meeting was held in the VIP hall at Dhaka airport between his highness the president, Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, and Mr Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by Umm al-Qaywayn ruler Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla.

During the meeting the latest developments in the Palestinian question at the Arab and international levels were discussed in addition to the current Islamic questions, foremost of which is preserving the Islamic and Arab character of Holy Jerusalem.

The meeting also discussed the means to bolster Islamic solidarity and joint action as well as everything that concerns the Arabs and Muslims and serves their interests.

Rao on Pakistan Ties, Bangladesh Border Fence

BK101059 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The external affairs minister said India will continue to work for better relations with Pakistan. The foreign secretary is visiting Islamabad later this month for discussions on the Pakistani no-war pact proposal and India's peace and friendship treaty offer. Replying to a special discussion in the Lok Sabha on the international situation, Mr Narasimha Rao said it would take a lot of time and persuasion before one of the proposals is accepted. India has not given it up. But if Pakistan continues acquisition of arms, New Delhi cannot be blamed for the consequences, he said.

Mr Rao refuted the opposition allegation that the ruling party is raising the threat of war because of the ensuing election. He pointed out that the prime minister has been raising the issue since 1980. The atmosphere is becoming tense because of the happenings in Pakistan. He asked the opposition to show evidence of the easing of tension or a change in Pakistan's attitude toward friendly relations. Referring to the fencing along the Indo-Bangla border, he said India will go ahead with it. It has been made clear to Dhaka that the fencing is not a defense factor nor does not it contravene the 1975 guidelines. On Sri Lanka, Mr Rao reiterated that the dialogue must continue as there is no other way to solve the ethnic problem. India has taken up with the Sri Lanka Government the issue of naval blockade, he said.

Mr Rao denied any tilt in India's policy toward any superpower.

After the minister's reply, the House rejected a substitute motion by Dr Subramaniam Swamy, Janata, urging the government to restructure its foreign policy. During the debate, members expressed concern over the developments in our neighborhood and urged the government to ensure national security. Initiating the discussion, Mr Satyasadhan Chakraborty, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], alleged that India's neighbors are unfriendly because of the machinations of the United States.

20,000 'Infiltrators' Intercepted

BK101105 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] About 20,000 Bangladesh infiltrators were intercepted by different agencies in West Bengal and sent back during the last (?16) months. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that a majority of them were intercepted by the Border Security Force. Others were identified by the West Bengal task force from various parts of the state.

Foreign Minister: Troop Withdrawal Report False

BK101650 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] India has described as totally false and distorted a Colombo press report that New Delhi had called upon Sri Lanka to withdraw its troops from Jaffna. The report had quoted the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, as saying so. However, the Sri Lanka minister for national security today clarified in Parliament in Colombo that their High Commission in New Delhi had sent a report saying that Mr Rao's statement contained no such references.

MIG-29 Fighter Tested; No Purchase Decision Yet

BK101337 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 10 (AFP) — India has recently tested the Soviet MIG-29 fighter, aviation sources said here today. But New Delhi has yet to decide whether it will purchase the fighter which is comparable to the French Mirage-2000 or the U.S. F-16, the sources said. Any decision to buy would depend on the evaluation of its performance, electronics, armaments and price.

The sources said that Moscow recently doubled its interest rate on arms sales to five per cent, still lower than the seven per cent charged by Western countries.

In Hong Kong the *FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW* reported that Moscow was to upgrade its military supplies to India with MIG-29's, missiles, naval craft and other sophisticated weapons. An Indian delegation to Moscow in April, headed by Defence Secretary S. M. Ghosh, has finalized a new weapons deal with the Soviets, the *REVIEW* said in its latest issue.

The Indian mission's Moscow visit was a follow-up to Soviet commitments made during Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Ustinov's March visit to New Delhi, the regional magazine said. The newly-concluded deal will "upgrade continuing Soviet military supplies" to India, the *REVIEW* said.

India has made a firm order for 40 Mirages-2000, of which the first will be operational this year, and has an option to make 110 more under licence.

Two squadrons of swing-wing MIG-23's, totalling 36 aircraft, already form part of the Indian Air Force. New Delhi is also negotiating to make the low-altitude attack craft, the MIG-27, under licence.

Indian Defence Minister R. Venkataraman told Parliament last month that India was not interested in the MIG-29 but in a new aircraft under development in the Soviet Union which he said was better than both the Mirage and the F-16. New Delhi is also discussing a light combat plane, which could be in the air in about a decade, with the French company Marcel Dasault and British Aerospace.

1 of 3 Assailants of Sikh Leader Singh Arrested

BK101615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 84

[Excerpts] In Punjab, a former head priest of the the Akal Takhat, the highest temple seat of the Sikhs, Giani Pratap Singh, was shot dead by three unidentified miscreants in Amritsar this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the police have arrested one of the three assailants of Giani Pratap Singh. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the assailant has been identified as Jaspal Singh, resident of (Panduri Baraich) village in Amritsar District. One pistol and some ammunition have been recovered from him. He also identified his other accomplices. He has also confessed that he has been living in the Guru Nanak Niwas within the Golden Temple complex.

Agency reports say in his articles published in various newspapers, Giani Pratap Singh was highly critical of the Akali Dal policies, its current agitation, and of antisocial elements staying in places of worship. He was the editor of a Punjabi magazine and had written 14 books on Sikh history and culture.

The president, Giani Zail Singh, has expressed shock over the incident.

The Akali Dal chief, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, and the acting president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee, Mr Atma Singh, have also conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Punjab Police Kill 2 Armed Men, Arrest 2 Others

BK101625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] This morning, four armed miscreants travelling without tickets in a bus attacked Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] jawans [soldiers] with sharpest weapons when they were checked at a post near Abohar in Ferozepore District. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that two of the miscreants were killed when the CRPF jawans fired back in self-defense. The other two were arrested.

In Ropar, a party of home guards on patrol duty on the railway track was fired upon by some unidentified persons. The incident occurred between Morinda and (Korali). The miscreants, however, fled when the patrol party returned the fire.

In Bhatinda District, security forces have seized some arms and ammunition in a combing operation of a village.

In Haryana, the interrogations of all the 51 terrorists, arrested during the last 2 months, have revealed that they have direct links with the extremists in Punjab.

Cases Against Amendment Advocates To Be Dropped

BK110857 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The Punjab Government has decided to withdraw cases against all the Akali Dal workers who had been arrested in connection with the party's agitation for seeking amendment to Article 25 of the Constitution. The decision taken today has been communicated to all the district magistrates for necessary action. An official spokesman told the All-India Radio Chandigarh correspondent that the decision has been taken keeping in view the broader ends of public justice, order, and peace. All the cases registered under the prevention of insult to national honors act are being withdrawn.

Viral Hepatitis Death Toll in Gujarat Rises

BK101109 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] In Gujarat, the death toll in the viral hepatitis has gone up to 415. Stating this in Ahmedabad, the state director of health, Dr Gupta, said necessary measures are being taken to prevent the epidemic spreading to other parts of the state.

Country Welcomes PRC-Bhutan Border Talks

BK061534 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Apr 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Bhutanese Initiative"]

[Text] The first round of Sino-Bhutanese talks on a boundary settlement concluded after two days of deliberation in Beijing last week. No instant outcome was expected. What is noteworthy, however, is that such direct talks took place and have been accepted all round as a natural and normal development. Bhutan, by treaty, has agreed to be "guided" by India in the conduct of its foreign relations. While this may have been necessary at a time when Bhutan was totally sequestered, things have changed since the Kingdom opened its doors to external influence a quarter-century ago. As the modernisation process has slowly gained momentum, so have the Bhutanese gradually asserted themselves in determining their own decisions. This is as it should be and any tendency in India to view this with disfavour would be mistaken.

In point of fact, India has not objected to the Sino-Bhutanese border talks. Earlier it had tried to include Bhutan within the compass of Sino-Indian boundary negotiations, but this was rejected by the Chinese and the matter was not pressed. The Government of India has taken a relaxed view of the latest talks in Beijing which have been conducted on behalf of Bhutan by its Ambassador to India, Mr Om Pradhan. This was obviously no more than a preliminary round and more meetings are indicated. Should the delineation and demarcation of the Sino-Bhutanese boundary be satisfactorily concluded, India would surely welcome it as giving stability to a segment of the Himalayan marches. Should the Chinese accord the Bhutanese especially favourable consideration in order to consolidate a new friendship, this would only strengthen the Indian position on the boundary question. Bhutan is rapidly growing tomaturity and, though in a far earlier stage of development than India, has to be seen as an equal. This is the only basis for friendship and cooperation, both within SARC [South Asian Regional Cooperation] and bilaterally.

Indian Concern Over 'Modest' Arms Purchases Rebutted

BK101642 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has described the Indian defense minister's concern over Pakistan's modest purchase of arms as unwarranted and unjustified. The Indian defense minister in a statement last week had stated that India faces danger from Pakistan, that Pakistan has acquired sophisticated weapons, and that the Pakistani forces have opened fire on the line of control without any provocation. Besides this, Indian airspace has been violated and India faces a nuclear threat from Pakistan, the Indian minister added.

The spokesman said that India has no cause for concern because the Pakistani Armed Forces are much smaller than India's. Meanwhile, India has purchased huge quantities of arms worth $12 billion to $15 billion from the Soviet Union and the West. The spokesman said that the Indian defense minister had himself admitted on the 26th of last month that massive steps were taken to equip the Indian Air Force with modern weapons. The Indian Air Force has been equipped with Jaguars, MIG-23, and MIG-27; and Mirage-2000 aircraft will soon be introduced.

The Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen that Pakistan's view is that every independent and sovereign country has the right to acquire arms for self-defense. In fact, this was reflected in the press statements in India and Pakistan issued during the Indian external affairs minister's visit to Pakistan on 12 June 1981. This is why Pakistan did not make any provocative statements on this issue. This issue can be solved through secret negotiations. The spokesman recalled that Paksitan had made two proposals in this regard. The first proposal said that Pakistan and India should agree to a balanced reduction in their Armed Forces and weapons, while the second one related to an agreement on a (?balance) of power. The proposals also said that there should be meetings of experts from the Armed Forces of the two countries to consider their military needs in accordance with the security requirements of the two countries.

The second step made by Pakistan was the offer of a proposal of nonaggression, and negotiations on this proposal and the proposal for a friendship agreement presented by India are in progress. Pakistan is awaiting the Indian external affairs secretary's visit. He is scheduled to visit Pakistan from 19 May.

On shooting across the line of control, the Foreign Office spokesman referred to the recent statement by the Pakistani Government which said that it has been the government's policy to avoid violations of Indian airspace and shooting incidents along this line in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Pakistan's nuclear program, the spokesman said that Pakistan is committed to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and this stand has been conveyed on a number of occasions. The spokesman reaffirmed that Pakistan wants South Asia to be declared a nuclear weapons-free zone and it has presented several proposals to India in this regard. The spokesman reiterated that Pakistan will continue its efforts to improve relations with India and will work with the utmost restraint and forbearance as in the past. Pakistan will abide by its policy to attain its overall objectives on the basis of sovereignty, equality, noninterference, and mutual benefit.

Ziaul Haq Comments on Election Program

BK101134 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The election program and the decision to hold the elections on party or nonparty basis and necessary amendments in the Constitution will come as a package announcement at an appropriate time.

This was stated by the president, Mohammad Ziaul Haq, while talking to newsmen at the Karachi airport before his departure for Peshawar this afternoon. He said he stood by the political program he announced on the 12th of August last year and his assessment was that an (?overwhelming) majority of the people would take part in the elections under this program. He said several defunct political parties had also announced their decision to take part in the elections whether they are held on a party or nonparty basis. He said no true politician could oppose the process of elections to replace the martial law by a representative government.

Zia Sees 'External Threats'

BK101710 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 84

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the election program, the decision to hold the elections on a party or nonparty basis, and necessary amendments to the Constitution will come as a package announcement at an appropriate time. He said this while talking to newsmen at Karachi airport before his departure for Peshawar this afternoon.

In reply to a question the president said that in view of its geographical location, Pakistan faces an external danger and it may face external threats in the future as well. He said that creation of a war hysteria is a political gimmick to secure popular support. But, he does not believe in such a political gimmick. He said that we should keep a constant watch over all internal and external threats. Our efforts should be to have good relations with all countries. We should strengthen the Armed Forces while pursuing a policy of peace. He said that through patience, forebearance, and unity, we can face all dangers.

Romanian President Ceausescu Concludes Visit

Economic Ties Reaffirmed

BK101019 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Pakistan and Romania have decided to reach a higher level of mutual economic relations and cooperation to match with their close political relations. This was stated by President Ceausescu of Romania while speaking at a reception hosted by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Karachi this evening. He said his government was ready to consider

joint ventures with Pakistani entrepreneurs as well as Pak-Romania joint ventures in their country. President Ceausescu said the setting up of the Romania-Pakistan Committee on the lines of the similar committee already existing in the Federation of the Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry to promote mutual economic relations would be considered. He invited Pakistani entrepreneurs to visit Romania to discuss ways to promote long-term economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Romanian president called for reduction and ultimately liquidation of nuclear weapons. He gave a warning that if those possessing such weapons did not agree to nuclear disarmament, other countries might embark on the (?race) of production of nuclear weapons which would be a great danger to mankind.

President Ceausescu said developing countries like Pakistan and Romania should work together for the establishment of a new world economic order. He said barriers in the way of free trade and conditions imposed by the international economic bodies including banking institutions were against the interest of developing countries.

The reception was attended by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the Sind governor, Lieutenant General Jahandad Khan, and industrialists and businessmen.

Ceausescu Departs for Damascus

BK101025 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] A warm send-off was accorded to Romanian President Ceausescu when he left Karachi for Damascus this morning at the end of a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq bade him farewell at the airport. Sind Governor Lieutenant General Jahandad Khan, local bodies councillors, high civil and military officials, and members of the diplomatic corps were among those present at the airport to see off the Romanian president.

Ministerial Committee Meetings With Turkey Open

TA100702 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] The joint Turkish-Pakistan ministerial committee began its fifth round of meetings in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The Turkish delegation to the talks is being headed by State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem, and the Pakistani delegation by Minister of Finance, Commerce, Planning and Provincial Cooperation Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

ANATOLIA reports that at the meetings two working groups were formed to deal with economic, technological, and scientific cooperation issues, and with bilateral trade questions. The conclusions to be reached by the working groups will be discussed at the last session of the joint ministerial committee to be held on 12 May.

Erdem Meets With Ministers

TA110815 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Kaya Erdem, state minister and deputy prime minister, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, has met separately with the finance and planning minister as well as the agriculture minister. The promotion of economic, agricultural, and industrial relations between Turkey and Pakistan were discussed during the talks.

Two subcommittees, set up at the Joint Turkish-Pakistan Ministerial Committee meetings which began its fifth round of meetings on 9 May, have begun working.

250 New Oil Wells Scheduled for Drilling

GF111036 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 30 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Multan, 29 April, APP: The production of oil in the country will reach 21,000 barrels a day under the new 5-year plan. This was stated by Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mohammad Asad Khan at Multan airport today.

He said: Our present production is 13,000 barrels a day, which only caters to 10 percent of our needs. In answer to a question, he said: Under the sixth 5-year plan, 250 oil wells will be dug, that is, 50 oil wells will be drilled annually — although it is possible that in the first year the number of wells to be drilled may not reach 50 due to paucity of funds or equipment. In response to another question he said: A hundred of the oil wells will be drilled by the Oil and Gas Development Corporation [OGDC], while the remaining 150 will be dug by private and foreign companies. He said: The government is mustering all resources including foreign loans and assistance for prospecting for oil and gas. A contract has also been signed with the World Bank for this purpose. As of today, drilling has begun on the Kabirwala oil well at Nandipur by the OGDC and if this is successful, more wells will be dug in the area. According to surveys, there is a considerable chance of discovering oil in Nandipur.

In reply to another question, he said that there are many parts of Pirkoh which indicate the presence of gas reserves and in the next 3 or 4 years it is expected that new gas fields will be discovered. He added: The government is taking steps to make the supply system of gas effective along with its prospecting activities. He said with confidence that gas prospecting will continue and new reserves will continue to be found to meet the country's requirements. There is no chance of the resources being depleted at least for the next 25 years. In answer to another question, he said that there is no restriction on new connections for consumers and that he would look into the matter of new connections for the New Multan housing scheme.

AFGHANISTAN

Forces Involved in Panjsher Operations Receive Awards

LD110846 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The greetings and best wishes of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, were conveyed today to officers, NCO's, and heroic men of the 37th Brigade and 444th Commando Regiment who actively took part in operations to clear of Panjsher valley by Brigadier General Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Army's Political Affairs Department.

Quoting the correspondent of *HAQIQAT-E ENQLAB-E SAWR* newspaper, BAKHTAR reports that at the meeting held on this occasion at field headquarters, Yasin Sadeqi spoke about the heroism and bravery of the officers and men and drew their attention to the crucial duties allotted to them by the party and the revolutionary government. The head of the Army's Political Affairs Department then distributed honorary medals and badges to a number of officers and men, and presented them with extraordinary promotion cards.

Herat Province 'Counterrevolutionaries' Crushed

LD091505 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] The crushing of the counterrevolutionaries — these traitors to the homeland and revolution who perpetrate unforgiveable crimes in disrupting the peaceful life of our compatriots — continues.

Recently, as a result of successful operations mounted in (Nezam-e Shahid) district, and in the environs of Enjil District, Herat Province, carried out by the vigilant security forces of this province, 27 persons belonging to the Jami'et-e Islami and [word indistinct] criminal bands were killed, while 40 various weapons, 3 rocket launchers, 1 heavy machine gun, 3 antitank mines, and 2 [word indistinct] centers were destroyed.

Mujahidin Assaults in Kabul, Farah Province Detailed

GF101917 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 9 May 84

[Excerpts] Our mujahidin brothers in a recent suprise attack on a military convoy of the Soviet-Karmal forces in Shin Dand in Farah Province destroyed one Soviet tank. All of the tank crew were killed. Two Soviet officers were also killed in this attack.

In an attack on an electric power station in Kabul, the mujahidin threw a part of city into complete darkness.

Several bombs exploded in two theaters in Kabul on the occasion of a Soviet festival. These explosions ended the Soviet cultural programs being held in these two theaters.

Military Parades Attacked

GF101933 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 9 Mwy 84

[Summary] Our mujahidin brothers have been inflicting heavy losses on the Soviet-Karmal forces since the beginning of the year.

"Reports received from the center in Ghazni Province said that our mujahidin brothers attacked a ceremonial parade held to mark the anniversary of the April Revolution, killing or wounding more than 40 Karmal soldiers taking part in the parade. The mujahidin brothers had earlier asked members of the public not to attend the parade."

"In another attack in Charikar, our mujahidin brothers killed 20 Karmal troops and wounded several more during a parade held to mark the anniversary of the so-called April Revolution."

On the other hand, Kabul City has experienced several explosions in power stations, warehouses and fuel depots.

In another operation in Chehel Dokhtaran in Herat Province, the mujahidin killed 21 enemy soldiers. They also wounded a number of them. Our mujahidin during an attack lasting 11 hours in Farah Province killed several of the enemy. They also destroyed one tank and several military vehicles.

SRI LANKA

Terrorists in Jaffna Kidnap American Couple

BK111319 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Terrorists in Jaffna kidnapped an American couple last night. They have now demanded a ransom of gold worth 50 million rupees to be deposited with the government of Tamil Nadu together with the release 20 terrorist suspects held by the Sri Lanka Government to the Tamil Nadu Government. The couple, identified as Stanley and Mary Allen, was said to have been seized at their home at Karainagar. Mr Allen works at an American-aided water supply project in Jaffna.

The terrorists had delivered a letter to the government agent in Jaffna stating that the ransom should be delivered within 72 hours beginning from 1200 today. If this deadline is not met the couple will be killed in an interval of 6 hours. If the ransom is granted, they will be released on a foreign land.

Investigations have revealed that about half a dozen terrorists [words indistinct] south of the island at Karainagar and seized the couple after threatening the servants. The servants were instructed that they should not inform anyone about the kidnapping until 1000 today. If they did, they would be killed. The terrorists (?pushed) the couple into a jeep and fled away. The servants informed the police after the deadline had passed. The jeep used by the terrorists was found abandoned this morning near the beach in [name indistinct]. This is the first time an incident of kidnapping involving terrorists of the north has been reported.

Security Minister Briefs Newsmen on Current Issues

9 May All-Party Conference

BK101149 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front and the All Ceylon Tamil Congress [ACTC] yesterday informed the all-party conference that they would not be in a position to serve on the expert committees which would be set up to make a detailed study of substantive views connected with the creation of a new machinery for devolution of power. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, briefing newsmen after yesterday's session, said that the two parties would issue statements giving the reasons for their decision today. In the conference met yesterday at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, President Jayewardene, who presided, proposed that the conference, while reserving to each delegation its position on the unit of devolution, will also set up two committees of experts representing the diversity of opinion within the conference to work on the structure, powers, and functions of the unit of devolution. It will also consider measures that should be implemented with regard to the equalization of opportunities in education, employment, and exercise of language rights.

The resolution also states that the all-party conference (?announced) that consensus had been reached that for the effective functioning of a plural society, a scheme of devolution of powers to enable people's participation in government at all levels is needed. Consensus has, however, not been reached, and there is divergence of opinion on what the appropriate unit of devolution should be. It was for this purpose that the setting up of expert committees was proposed.

The president further told the conference that the committees should determine their own procedure and report to the plenary sessions of the conference.

Minister Athulathmudali further said that the Democratic Workers Congress told the conference that it was their view that the unit of devolution should be decided by the plenary before the question of structure, powers, and functions were considered by the committee.

The Sri Lanka Communist Party, the minister said, has told the conference that in their view the question of the nature of the unit of devolution should be taken up together with the two matters in the resolution. He said that, in respect to a question raised, President Jayewardene stated that no party was precluded from raising the question of the nature of the unit of devolution while considering the structure, powers, and functions.

The minister said that the president informed the conference that the legislation in regard to matters on which consensus had been reached in March would be ready shortly

Answering a question, Mr Athulathmudali said that even though the TULF and ACTC had stated that they would not serve in the experts committees, they would continue to attend the conference in plenary.

The conference will reconvene on the 18 May to announce the names of the members of the committees, and the meeting thereafter will be held on the 1st of next month.

Armed Forces' Antiterrorist Aid

BK101459 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has directed the Armed Forces to accompany the Gram Seva [village service] officers in the respective areas with them in carrying out raids for detection of terrorists. However, this directive does not apply to emergency search operations. The minister has instructed the armed personnel to accompany three adults of the area whenever the services of Gram Seva officers are not available. The decision by the minister is in response to a request made by the representatives of a Hindu delegation which met him recently.

Addressing newsmen in Colombo this morning, Minister Athulathmudali said that he had also instructed the police and the armed personnel to carry out their search operation without disrupting normal life so that the people in the areas will come to know that the officials are their friends and not enemies. These officials had also been entrusted with the task of explaining to the people the various difficulties they had to undergo because of terrorist activities.

Referring to the present situation in Jaffna, the minister said that the curfew in Jaffna has now completely been lifted and the normal public services are now being maintained. Action had been taken to send consumer items to Jaffna while train services would soon return to normal. Minister Athulathmudali has also reiterated that he was heading an antiterrorist campaign which is not anti-Tamil. He said that terrorism would be completely wiped out from the island following which everybody in the country would be able to live in peace and harmony.

Khamene'i Warns Arabs Gulf Oil Routes at Risk
NC111129 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 11 (AFP) — Iran warned its Arab neighbours today that all oil routes in the Gulf would be at risk unless Iraq ceased its attacks on Iran's oil traffic.

"If that one oil route in the Persian Gulf does not grow safer, this will mean that all the oil routes in the Persian Gulf will become dangerous," said the head of state, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i.

Referring to recent attacks on two Saudi tankers off the Khark Island loading terminal in the northern Gulf, he said: "We will not stand by while certain Gulf oil routes become hazardous while tankers may sail safely on other routes. This is not possible."

President Khamene'i said Iran suspected "certain Persian Gulf states of complicity with Iraq" in the attack on the Saudi ships.

Iraq is backed in its war by almost all of the Gulf states, who have been reported to fear a spread of Islamic fundamentalism from Iran.

Attacks Not Coincidental
GF100440 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 May 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The countries of the Gulf region are daily discovering a new danger threatening them from Baghdad. After the (?crisis) of the oil slick which threatened life on the Gulf coasts, the Ba'thists are now threatening to encircle the sea navigation routes in the Persian Gulf. The problem is not in the Ba'thist [words indistinct] for that vital (?region), the Saddamist power proved that it does not possess the total capability to put an end to the navigation in the Gulf waters and the continuation of trade and transport operations from it to the ports on the Gulf coast proves that.

International military circles believe that the Iraqi rulers are striking at nonstrategic targets because of the weakness in their military capabilities and the failure of the Ba'thist plans to inflict losses on the naval artery of the Islamic Republic. For the fourth time those rulers have attacked ships returning to their ally countries in the region and have inflicted material losses on their friends, who until now have been supplying them with whatever economic and financial aid they need.

The foreign minister of the regime was obliged to head for Riyadh following the bombardment of the Saudi ship *Safina al-'Arab* to officially apologize and report that what happened to the *Safina al-'Arab* was a mistake. And today, after the bombardment of a second ship, the Saudi petroleum minister — instead of the Iraqi rulers — stated that what happened to the ship was a coincidence, despite the fact that it was carrying the Saudi flag. The question may come to mind (?without a reply): Is what the Baghdad regime doing a coincidence, as its media circles claim, or is there a plot behind it aimed at aggravating the security situation in the Persian Gulf waters? If we want to reply in light of the existing facts we will find that the latter possibility is nearer to the truth.

Foreign Minister Velayati: Ties to Libya 'Strategic'
GF110709 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent, Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, arrived in Tripoli yesterday afternoon at the head of an official delegation. He was welcomed by Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the secretary of the Libyan People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; some of the country's officials; and the ambassador and members of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Tripoli.

This visit is taking place to express the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the Libyan stance vis-a-vis the movements of U.S. imperialism and also to assess the present changes in the region and the international situation. Dr Velayati is carrying a message from our country's president, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, in support of Libya. On his arrival in Tripoli, Mr Velayati said in an interview with the IRNA correspondent that the ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya are strategic. He stated: Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, these ties have become closer and more cordial and are expanding. Mr Velayati also said: During the period of more than 5 years that have elapsed since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the trend of increasing the friendly and fraternal ties between the two countries has continued, despite all the difficulties imposed on the two countries by the enemies. I think that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Libyan Jamahiriyah will be able to assist each other in attaining many common objectives as two Muslim, nonaligned countries.

Continuing his speech, Mr Velayati spoke of the latest conspiracies of U.S. imperialism and its agents against the brother country of Libya and said: We have come here so that we may once more have coordination and necessary consultations for combating imperialism and its agents in the area. Such visits between the officials of the countries are essential for the consolidation of mutual ties and the exchange of opinions regarding the problems that crop up in the area everyday.

Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, in an interview with correspondents regarding the clear and decisive stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in support of Libya, said that the people and the leadership of the Libyan Jamahiriyah cordially appreciate [the support of] the nation and government of the brother Islamic Republic of Iran for standing by the Libyan nation.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed: Just as the Iranian nation was able to emerge victorious over the reactionary forces and the enemies of the revolution, we have also been able to wipe out the destructive efforts of the hirelings supported by reaction and imperialism with all our strength. He emphasized: The Libyan

nation is determined to continue its struggle until the complete sovereignty of the people of this country is attained. For the achievement of this goal, we depend on our national forces and our brothers, especially in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we will not heed any clamor by the hirelings and their endeavors. Our country has proved and will prove by its revolutionary strength that it can destroy aggressors.

Libyan Reportage on Visit

For Tripoli and additional Tehran coverage of Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, his meetings with secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, and his statements on the fraternal and strategic ties of the Libyan and Iranian peoples, see the Libyan subsection of the 11 May Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,722

LD101815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 84

[Communique No 1,722 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Over the past 24 hours, hostilities continued on the southern operational fronts of Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, Marivan, and the border zone of Bakhtaran and Ilam between the Islamic combatants and the Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq, with artillery and heavy arms exchanges taking place. The victorious Islamic fighters shelled positions and fortifications as well as opposing units and enemy patrols, halting their movements and their efforts to reinforce their positions, and silencing their fire. By dispatching patrols and establishing observation posts, enemy entrenchments and operational activities were identified, and in general losses and casualties were inflicted on Iraqi forces on every front, with a number of their troops killed. Exchange of fire was at its most intense mainly in the regions of (Chuman Mostafa), Mehran, and (Nofur). At 2100 on 8 May an enemy patrol was spotted in the operational zone of Sumar, but it withdrew in haste when fired on, having suffered casualties and losses. In the Mehran region the valiant Gendarmerie shelled some of the enemy positions.

On the southern fronts, sporadic exchanges continued between our forces and the enemy, being particularly intense in the Majnun region, where at 0430 on the morning of 8 May the Saddamist criminals began using chemical gas. In the operational theatres of Abadan and Khorramshahr the Islamic combatants opened fire on enemy units, silencing their fire, and in gaining control over Iraqi operational activities and deployments they inflicted losses and casualties on them. In the operational zone the valiant Gendarmerie destroyed over 14 arms and troop bunkers.

As on previous days, Abadan yesterday came under fire from long-range enemy weapons, resulting in damage to 20 houses and the death of one of our dear countrymen.

Antigovernment Operations in Iraq Depicted

GF110856 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] During their operations on the Al-'Amadiyah-[name indistinct] road in northern Iraq, Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries killed 24 of the forces of the regime ruling in Iraq and wounded 50 others. During these operations, they captured 1 60-mm gun, 37 shells, 4 machine guns, 1 radio, and a quantity of ammunition.

During the past few days, Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries attacked a military unit of the Zionist regime in Iraq in (Khusabi), northern Iraq, killing or wounding a number of members of this unit and capturing a number of Saddamists.

Last week, Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries attacked two mountain observation posts in the (Sardang) area and killed 20 Saddamists.

More on President's Visit to Mazandaran Province

Khamene'i Interview

GF100807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 May 84

[Interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i by unidentified Voice and Vision correspondent — date and place not given; recorded]

[Text][Correspondent] Mr Khamene'i, would you kindly describe the results of your 3-day visit to Mazandaran Province? What was the spirit of the people of this province vis-a-vis the Islamic Revolution, particularly with respect to the imposed war?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The visit was an excellent one and we were able to visit a few cities of Mazandaran and meet the sincere and warm people of this province. In Sari, as well as in Bandar-e Torkaman and Babol, there were huge gatherings of the peoples of these places which demonstrated the loyalty, enthusiasm, and sincere revolutionary spirit of the people of Mazandaran Province. Of course, we knew that the people of this noble province had these qualities. The problems that were discussed related to a number of subjects. Various groups had been set up before our arrival in Mazandaran to go to the various parts of the province to collect additional information; to contact the responsible people, revolution bodies, Friday imams, and various other officials; and to give us reports on various aspects of the province. Ten working groups had visited ten different parts of the province and contacted the bodies referred to above. In addition, a public relations group was set up on the provincial level to report to us matters of importance.

In my view, the most important issue that exists in the province is the issue of agriculture and the welfare of the people. There are some irregularities on the provincial level which should be taken into account and studied and steps taken to rectify them. Things have been done, but there are more things to be done. In any case, during our visit we were able to collect knowledge and detailed information about this important and fertile province,

which has faithful and revolutionary people who are always present on the scene.

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that agriculture and other important matters of the province have priority in the programs of the government, would you kindly say what progress is being made in this province?

[Khamene'i] Fortunately, during this visit we were able to be accompanied by Dr Zali and Mr Zanganeh, the respected ministers of agriculture and the reconstruction crusade, and Dr Ghafuri-Fard, the minister of energy. These brothers tackled the various problems of the province, which were mostly related to these three sectors. Of course there are other problems also, but most of the problems are related to these three ministries, and these brothers were able to have the opportunity to tackle these problems at close range. We also had the opportunity to sit with these brothers and exchnge views on the primary level, especially in the field of agriculture and other jobs in this province related to these three sectors. Of course, when we return to Tehran the brothers will have time to assemble all the information collected and then we will all sit together and find ways and means to act and formulate plans to implement the programs as quickly as possible.

On the whole, it appears that Mazandaran Province is one of the most self-sufficient agricultural provinces of our country. It has fertile land and is blessed with a most favorable climate. People who are interested in agriculture have created special conditions in the province. Of course, we believe that the government should implement important programs in this province with respect to agricultural measures. To begin with, the land should be divided into separate categories. The areas where basic crops are to be raised should be designated and used exclusively for those crops, except as otherwise specified by the Ministry of Agriculture and in the government plans. Another important agricultural issue in this province relates to turning cropland into orchards or using it for other purposes which have nothing to do with agriculture. This should be stopped by the government through the introduction of precise agricultural plans. People should see that this change does not occur. Our first step with respect to the self-sufficiency of the province would be self-sufficiency in food products, and this is possible by expanding the agriculture and paying all possible attention to this program.

With regard to the question of land, water, and all the problems related to agriculture, let us make accurate plans and devise programs of joint cooperation between the government and the people. We hope that, God willing, the brothers who have worked with enthusiasm and sincerity during this visit will follow up on the questions raised. We will also do follow-up work, and, God willing, we will reach the desired results.

Khamene'i Sought End to Opposition

GF101329 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] According to a Tehran radio report, 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the Khomeyni regime, who went to Torkaman Sahra in response to the unrest due to the puppet election shows in that area, openly appealed to the people and the Sunni clergy of Torkaman Sahra to end their continued opposition to the Islamic Republic.

While the Constitution of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic has deprived the Iranians of the Sunni sect of practically all of their rights in Iran and while the agents of the Khomeyni regime kill daily in Kordestan scores of Iranian Sunnis, 'Ali Khamene'i has asked the people of Torkaman Sahra to support Khomeyni's Islamic Republic.

Montazeri Addresses International Imams Congress

LD102038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The guests taking part in the second international congress of congregational and Friday imams, who have traveled to Qom in order to meet his eminence's grand ayatollahs, this morning met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

According to an IRNA report, at this meeting, in which several members of the Central Council of Friday Imams were also present, first several verses from the Holy Koran were recited by the Friday imam of the African country of Sierra Leone. Then Shaykh Ahmad Kijani, from the Ivory Coast, representing the participants in the congress, expressed his appreciation to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as the congress's initiator, and in a speech emphasized the role of the congress in creating unity among the world's Muslims. Then Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, in a detailed speech, hoped that the convening of such congresses and sessions could solve the sufferings and difficulties of the Muslims and be a way to find the causes of their problems.

Referring to the false claims of Saddam's Ba'thist regime regarding that regime's love of peace, his eminence said:

They now ask us: Why do you not make peace with Saddam? We had no war against Iraq; it was Iraq which started the war, but we will not tolerate oppression and degradation, and we will fight against him. We said from the beginning: Pay us for the damages and put Saddam on trial as the cause of this imposed war; we promise you that if Saddam and the Iraqi Ba'th regime go away and if the ulema of Iraq — including the Shi'ites and the Sunnis — administer their country, we will not ask for reparations for the damage but will even help them. In any case we will not give in to an imposed peace.

In conclusion Grand Ayatollah Montazeri addressed the guests: In these sensitive conditions, when the East and the West have collaborated against Islam and feel the danger, your duty, Brothers, is heavy. Through the formation of a strong network you can lead nations.

Addressing the guests, his eminence emphasized: The colonialists have confined us to mosques along with such matters as cleaning the body or prayers — and this is a conspiracy hatched by colonialism. Come out of mosques and note that Islamic issues are not confined to prayers and cleaning the body. Your religious codes consist of 70 or 80 books; 4 or 5 books are on religious matters and the rest on politics, economics, government, and so

on. If youths go toward Marxism and if Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque are under Israel's occupation and if America is plundering the Middle East's oil, the blame must be shouldered by oppressive, tyrannical and hireling powers, who have no zeal. But you and I, who have zeal, must not remain silent.

According to this report, the guests participating in the second international congress of Friday and congregational imams then left for a visit to Feyziyyeh seminary. While chanting the slogans [slogans given in Arabic] "Death to America, Death to Saddam"; "Death to Russia"; and "Neither East nor West, Only the Islamic Republic" — the guests arrived in the Feyziyyeh seminary and after visiting the scholars' chambers, and talking to several scholars of the seminary were briefed on the Islamic motivation of the Iranian nation in the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Council of Guardians, Judicial Council Meet

LD102325 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 84

[Excerpts] The Council of Guardians met this morning to continue their examination of the files dealing with some constituencies in connection with the first round of Majlis elections. As a result, the elections in some constituencies were approved while decisions on others were postponed until the next session.

Moqtada'i, spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council, was interviewed this morning. He explained the discussions held over the past week by the Supreme Judicial Council. Commenting on decisions adopted recently by the Supreme Judicial Council on improving the situation in the Justice Department's Lawyers Institute, he said: It has been decided to appoint five individuals by the Supreme Judicial Council and recommend them to the Majlis. Once the Majlis approves those individuals, then measures will be taken to purge the Lawyers Institute. He added: Someone has already been appointed by the Supreme Judicial Council to temporarily run the Lawyers Institute until a new board of directors is elected.

Commenting on visits by himself and Bojnurdi, another member of the Supreme Judicial Council, to Evin Prison, he said: During our discussions with prisoners they emphasized the correct treatment accorded them by prison officials. They said they had been treated too leniently in prison and they should have been given longer sentences.

The spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council, commenting on a question put by the Tehran public prosecutor to the Council in connection with the punishment of cutting off hands, said: If the offense has been proved in accordance with Islamic criteria and approved by the Supreme Court, then God's punishment, being the Koran's verdict, must be implemented. Referring to an international seminar to be held in Tehran in the future, he emphasized: The seminar will be organized in order to clarify the complexities of Islamic penal laws. In this connection, a preliminary seminar will be held in the near future on a domestic basis in order to study the various aspects of the topics which are to be raised at the international seminar.

Official Explains Annulment of Election Results

GF101246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Mr Imami-Kashani, head of the supervisory board for the second phase of the Majlis elections, gave an interview to correspondents last night during which he answered questions on the annulment of elections in some of the constituencies in the country, on how violators are being dealt with, and on the commencement of and campaigning for the second stage of the second phase of the Majlis elections.

During this interview, Mr Imami-Kashani was asked to give the reason for the annulment of the election results in some of the constituencies and to describe the methods for dealing with violators. He referred to the instructions of the Guardians Council on how the election commission supervisory board should deal with complaints and stressed that some election results were annulled because of violations of individual rights. He said: First of all, we should thank this great Islamic nation of ours which has participated in these elections with utmost sincerity. I would say in explanation that the voter turnout in this election was about 15 to 20 percent higher than in the previous election. This is a sign that our society is fully aware of the importance of these elections. The board of supervisors of the Council of Guardians is keen to see that no elements are allowed to create difficulties in carrying out the elections in a just and fair way because in the Islamic system the Majlis is specialized and should be a model for the world. In the Islamic system, each seat in the Majlis should be filled according to the Islamic tenets. Otherwise, the Majlis would become illegal and illegitimate in terms of Islam.

Therefore, it is essential that the votes should be cast by the people, and the elections which have been carried out have, in the words of the imam of the nation, been legal. The Majlis that has authority over everything must be legal, and such a Majlis must be set up by the people through election. Therefore, if we speak of annulment, then this is the result of the distinction and the prestige that belongs to the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution. Nobody should be made to suffer on this account and nobody should disregard the importance of elections. If, God forbid, some invalid move appears in the elections, then this move will undoubtedly affect the smooth running of the Majlis. It is on this account that the Council of Guardians is doing all it can to ensure that the elections are carried out in the best possible way.

Mr Imami-Kashani added: So far, and in continuation of investigation of the complaints received by the Council, the election results in nine constituencies have been declared null and void. I hope that no other complaints are received in this connection; but if they are, the supervisory board of the Council is bound to declare more election results null and void.

Finally, the head of the supervisory board of the Council of Guardians for the second phase of the Majlis elections said that the important reason for the annulment of the elections in certain constituencies is that the people there had taken advantage of their influence to misuse the administrative authority in the constituencies and had filled in ballots for illiterates according to their own will. In addition some candidates were engaged in illegal activities, and there were other illegalities which were

uncovered. The cases of all persons involved in such activities are being sent to competent judicial authorities.

Answering a question on how the seat vacated by the martyred Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahabadi would be filled, Mr Imami-Kashani said: In view of Article 9 of the Majlis Election Law and the rules and regulations established thereunder, a replacement will be elected from the Tehran constituency in the second round of elections, unless the Majlis states otherwise.

In answer to a question on whether or not the Majlis will begin its second term on the scheduled date, Mr Imami-Kashani said: According to the existing rules and in view of the requirement for a majority of 188 representatives in order to open the Majlis, I do not think that there would be any difficulty in opening the Majlis on the scheduled date. We can thus be certain that the second term of the Majlis will begin on 29 May.

In conclusion, Mr Imami-Kashani said that the Council of Guardians will send a letter to the Ministry of Interior giving its views on the timing and campaigning methods for the second round of elections, after which the Ministry will issue a formal announcement on this.

Rejection of Egyptian Peace Plan Reiterated
GF040852 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. plan which has been adopted by the Egyptian Government to end the war between Iran and the regime ruling in Iraq is based on two points: first, that Iraq should bear part of the war burden because it started the aggression against the Muslim people in Iran; and second, that Iran should bear part of this burden because it continues the war.

What will any sensible man say if we present to him this plan except pitying these grand ideas which Rumsfeld formulated during his 2-week tour and which ended in Cairo by authorizing the Mubarak regime to continue the game?

We ask Egyptian officials: If you consider the two belligerant parties sinful, who, then, will concede his rights to the other? If we say both should concede because they are both sinful, this will contradict facts and reality, because Iran has never tried to usurp the rights of others. On the contrary, it has been seeking to restore its usurped rights since aggressors carried out their treacherous attack on its faithful people. What will Iran concede while the enemy is still in the land of Islam and while the city of Naft-e Shah, Qasr-e Shirin, and the Gilan-e Gharb mountains and other places are still occupied by aggressors? Do the White House politicians and their followers want Iran to give up its land to the enemy as a price for his treacherous aggression which they acknowledge? And if they say that the two parties will not concede their rights, what solution can be reached, then, if no party will concede?

These questions put the Egyptian plan in the whirlwind of speculations which will eventually lead to its collapse and downfall because it is not based on a sound and logical basis and did not spring from the facts of the war between Iran and the regime ruling in Baghdad, but was rather based on the ignorance that a relative must be supported even if he is unjust. Are not Mubarak, Saddam, Husayn, and Fahd members of the same tribe who have volunteered to serve Washington's colonialist policies?

Once again, we ask the Mubarak regime: Now that you have resigned yourselves to the fact that Iraq began the war against Iran, what do you expect Muslims [in Iran] to do? Shall Iran remain silent and accept the ignominy of occupation? What would history and future generations say about this stand? If the Ba'thist aggression had been committed against Egypt, what would you have done? Would you not have taken up arms to resist this aggression?

We tell Saddam's allies: You are now called on, more than any time before, to answer this question: Have your efforts gained you anything in terms of saving the aggressors or rescuing them from the war trap? Have your efforts succeeded in stopping the holy advance of Islam? This is because the only solution which began with the bullet and will end with the gun has begun to see the downfall of the aggressors.

Kuwait Awqaf Ministry Warning on Sermons Noted
GF101948 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The Kuwaiti Awqaf Ministry has issued a warning against the delivery of sermons in the country's mosques without obtaining prior permission from the Awqaf Ministry.

The Kuwaiti Awqaf Ministry did not give any reason which that led it to take such an action.

Soviet Army in Afghanistan as 'Relief Force'
TA082015 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 8 May 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Afghan Events Must Be Assessed Realistically"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Tehran's propaganda organization does not cease to create problems toward an accurate understanding of the events relating to Afghanistan. Above all, this effort is aimed at distorting the issue of the presence of Soviet military units in Afghanistan. Though our northern neighbor did send some military units to Afghanistan upon the repeated request of the legitimate Afghan Government, yet this measure is being portrayed as aggression.

Anyone wanting to know the truth knows that the Soviet Government dispatched military forces upon the request of the Government of Afghanistan, and in order to prevent certain threats from abroad aimed at that country's revolutionary changes. This is not an occupying force, nor can it be. Rather, it is a relief force which, on the basis of an agreement between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, entered this country. Everyone knows that when an occupying military force enters a country,

the local military forces are disarmed. In the case of Afghanistan, however, the Army of that country was strengthened.

It has often been said in Kabul that when they no longer are needed,, Soviet military forces will leave Afghanistan. The decision regarding this problem concerns the independent Afghan Government alone. Naturally, the presence of a foreign army is not desirable for any country, but the fact must not be forgotten that the Soviet military forces entered Afghanistan upon the invitation of that country. Now, certain conditions should be brought about so that the threat from abroad — the threat that caused the Soviet Army to arrive on Afghan soil — would be eliminated. An end must be put to interventions in Afghan affairs by counterrevolutionary forces from Pakistani and Iranian territory.

For a long time now, the official propaganda organization of the Government of the Islamic Republic has been raising a hue and cry around Afghanistan on the basis of a prescription by the Americans. Certain individuals have unleashed a tumult around Afghanistan, individuals who have deployed a 200,000-man army in Western Europe, and who despite the will of public opinion have now placed in operation the most modern nuclear missiles in Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. Certain individuals more than others are raising a hue and cry about Soviet forces in Afghanistan, individuals who in the course of 30 years have stationed their powerful Armed Forces in South Korea, and who despite all international mores and laws committed aggression against the small island and independent country of Grenada. It is abundantly clear that those who unleash a tumult in the United States are not doing this out of sympathy for the fate of Islam or democracy whatsoever. If Washington had any interest in Islam, it would have assisted the Palestinians to gain their land. It would have defended Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan against the aggression of Tel Aviv's Zionist regime. It would not have supported murderous military regimes such as that of Ziaul Haq in Pakistan and Pinochet in Chile.

This is not the first time that the Soviet Union has aided Afghanistan. Following World War I, too, the Soviet Union assisted Amir Amanollah Khan in the struggle against British colonialism for independence. When Mohommad Zaher Shah also asked the Soviet Union to aid that country to establish a new army, the Soviet Government accepted this request without any conditions. On the other hand, America made the condition for aid to Afghanistan in this connection provisional on joining the Baghdad Pact.

Moreover, at present America, Britain, Federal Germany, and Japan have allocated hundreds of millions of dollars to organizing aggression and subversion against Afghanistan, and are dispatching their bands of killers for sabotage in Afghanistan. Only within this context can one realize the importance of the Soviet Union's assistance to Afghanistan. Had it not been for this unstinting assistance by the Soviet Union, they would have sounded the death knell of the Afghan nation's revolution a long time ago.

Briefs

Outgoing Pakistan Ambassador — The ambassador of Pakistan to Tehran at the end of his term of office in Tehran this morning met and conferred with Mr Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister. In this meeting the ambassador of Pakistan, referring the common cultural, historic and religious backgrounds of the Iranian and Pakistani nations, considered his term of office in the Islamic Republic of Iran as a valuable memoir in his life and hoped that the relations between the two countries would expand more than before in every field. Wishing success for the ambassador of Pakistan in his other missions, Mr Velayati appreciated his efforts for the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries and the expansion of relations between the two neighboring Muslim countries. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 84 LD]